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SUPPLEMENT TO 640962
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

East Germany

SUBJECT

Revision of Plan to Supply Population with Textiles and Leather

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

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1. In late February 1954, it was rumored in East Germany that the East German Government had confiscated 70 to 80 percent of textiles as well as leather and artificial leather which had been released for consumption in 1954 and that it was therefore advisable to buy clothes and footwear as soon as possible. The raw materials mentioned would be used for the KVP or stockpiled.
2. On 1 March 1954, it was learned that the plan, which had been drafted to meet the requirements of the population in 1954, was cancelled. This was announced at a meeting of the managing board of the Konsum (cooperative stores) organization on Stresemann Strasse Berlin. Textiles and leather were declared to be in short supply and it was stated that they would henceforth be allocated by the management of the Konsum organization according to their availability. Only a fraction of the required goods was expected to be available.

Comment. It appears probable that a portion of the raw materials needed for textiles and leather goods will be used to increase the so-called "state reserves". After the "New Course" had been announced, a high percentage of the stocks kept at state storage depots was released for civilian production. In 1954, the East German Government had to see that these state reserves were replenished.

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